

# **HUZOOR'S TOUR OF GERMANY**

**JUNE 2014**

**A Personal Account**

**PART 2**

***By Abid Khan***

### Departure for Munich

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014, Huzoor and his Qafila departed from the *Baitus Sabuh* Mosque in Frankfurt at 10.15am.

We were travelling to *Neufahrn* a small town, known as a municipality, lying in the suburbs of Germany's famous city of *Munich*. Huzoor was travelling to inaugurate the *Al-Mahdi Mosque*.

Apart from Berlin, Munich is considered to be Germany's most famous city internationally. It is home to the famous football team '*Bayern Munich*' and also home to the renowned car maker *BMW*.

The drive from Frankfurt took nearly 3 and a half hours and as we approached *Neufahrn* the Qafila cars were escorted by 2 police cars.

One of the police cars was a 'special forces' car which travelled at the rear of the Qafila, whilst the other police car acted as the lead car.

Apart from these 2 cars there were other police cars that had completely blocked traffic on certain roads so that Huzoor's car could travel directly without any delay.

As I saw this I felt a great deal of gratitude to the German authorities for welcoming Huzoor in such a positive way.

### Arrival in Munich

We arrived at the *Al-Mahdi Mosque* at 1.35pm where Huzoor was greeted by a local dignitary.

The dignitary spoke very passionately as he welcomed Huzoor and said that he held a very deep respect for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Huzoor thanked him for his courtesy and kindness.



The local Ahmadis also greeted Huzoor with great delight and you could see how happy they were that Huzoor was with them. It was Huzoor's first visit to Munich and so the local Jamaat had not had the honour of hosting *Khalifatul Masih* since the era of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (ra).

Even after Huzoor went to his residence, the local Ahmadis continued to recite poems expressing their joy at Huzoor's presence.

One thing I noticed immediately in Munich was the intense heat. It seemed much hotter than Frankfurt and indeed at certain points over the next 24 hours the temperature reached up to 37 degrees Celsius.

### **Inauguration of the Mosque**

The Mosque itself was quite small and there were some finishing touches internally that remained to be completed. However, from the outside it was ready and looked very picturesque.



Huzoor came down from his residence at 5.30pm to officially inaugurate the Mosque by unveiling a plaque and then leading a silent prayer.

I had heard there was some local opposition to the construction of the Mosque but at that time I saw neighbours standing on their balconies looking in the direction of the Mosque and rather than seeming angry or concerned they seemed interested and curious.

A local tradition in the State of *Bavaria* is to release a flock of white doves at a time of celebration. Thus to fulfil this local tradition the local Jamaat had organised for a flock of doves.

The local Jamaat asked Huzoor's permission if they could be released to which Huzoor agreed. Perhaps due to nerves, no one actually released the doves and so then Huzoor himself opened the cage to release them.

As the birds emerged it caused a very strong wind to gush in our direction as the birds frantically enjoyed their release. I too felt myself go backwards and later saw a picture in which it seemed that I was in a state of shock at the release of the birds!

### **Huzoor leading Salat in the new Mosque**

Huzoor then proceeded to the Mosque to lead the Zuhr and Asr prayers. As Huzoor was travelling he offered 2 *rakats* rather than 4 and waited as the local Ahmadis completed their prayers.

Whilst Huzoor waited for the locals to complete their Zuhr prayer I saw him take out his phone from his pocket and place it in front of him on the floor.

I was not sure but it seemed to me that Huzoor was checking the *qibla* direction on his phone to make sure it was correct. I later asked Huzoor about this and he said that he had indeed been checking the *qibla* direction to make sure it was entirely accurate.

### Al-Mahdi Mosque Reception

The Jamaat had organised a special reception to mark the opening of the *Al-Mahdi Mosque*, however because of a lack of space it was not possible to host at the Mosque premises. Therefore, the Jamaat held the event at a local school, the *Oskar-Maria-Graf School*, which was just a few minutes drive away.

As we travelled to the school it became apparent that a protest was taking place nearby in opposition to the Mosque. However in truth there were only a handful of protesters, whilst more than 260 guests attended the reception to support the Jamaat.

The weather was extremely hot and so our *Khuddam* took water and drinks for the protesters. I was told that a couple of people refused to drink our water but the rest did take it and, despite their opposition, were appreciative of this gesture.

During the course of the main event, various dignitaries, both federal and local, took to the stage.

In turn they each spoke of their appreciation of the *Ahmadiyya Muslim Community* and the way the Jamaat had always sought to integrate into and support the local society.

The final guest speaker was Professor Heiner Bielefeldt, *Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion at the United Nations*. Being a representative of the United Nations and dealing specifically with '*freedom of religion*' he spoke with

both knowledge and passion. He openly said that he deemed the *Ahmadiyya Muslim Community* to be the most persecuted religious community in the world.

He also spoke with great regret at the state of Pakistan and he lamented that it had not remained “*the Pakistan of Zafrullah Khan*” and that instead it had moved towards extremism and lawlessness.

I was very impressed with his speech and it was clear that he deeply felt the injustice faced by our Jamaat. Although he was not seated at the head table, I saw that later he specially requested to sit next to Huzoor for a few minutes.

Although I could not hear the conversation from his demeanour it was clearly apparent how much respect he had for Huzoor and for the Jamaat.

#### **Huzoor’s address at Munich reception**

During his address, Huzoor spoke very beautifully about Islam and commented upon the small protest that was taking place simultaneously by saying that Ahmadis would not hold counter protests or rallies in response, but would continue to only repeat their slogan of *Love for All, Hatred for None*.

Very beautifully, Huzoor said:

***“Islam has taught us to respond to curses with prayers; it has taught us to respond to those who grieve us only with love and care and it has taught us to respond to arrogance only with humility.”***

In his address, Huzoor also spoke about Dr Mehdi Ali Qamar *Shaheed*, who had been martyred days before in Pakistan, having travelled from the United States to serve at the *Tahir Heart Institute*.



Huzoor spoke of how thousands of people attended the funeral of Dr Mehdi in Canada and how his coffin had been draped in the US and Canadian flags.

Huzoor said:

***“When Dr Mehdi Ali Qamar was killed we Ahmadi Muslims did not protest or take to the streets and nor will we ever stop serving humanity. Rather more than ever before we will seek to help those in need or those who are vulnerable. Wherever Ahmadi Muslims exist they seek only to serve mankind. This is our spirit and this is our way.”***

The way Huzoor spoke about the Jamaat’s commitment to serving humanity was truly beautiful. I remembered how when Dr Qamar was martyred I heard a



couple of people say that it may lead to less Ahmadi doctors travelling from the *West* to Pakistan due to fear for their safety.

To think that less Ahmadis would travel out of fear had made me slightly uncomfortable but Huzoor's words made it clear to me that those who predicted that less Ahmadis would travel were wrong. Huzoor said that the Jamaat would never slow down in its service to humanity and that this spirit of service would only ever increase.

### **Response of guests to Huzoor's address**

Following the event, I met some of the guests and I particularly remember the comments of a local priest called *Hans Martin*.

He told me how he had found Huzoor to be an extremely graceful person and absolutely sincere. The priest added that he found Huzoor to be "*a person who can heal the entire world*".

Huzoor also took the time to meet many of the guests one by one. Each guest spoke of his admiration of Huzoor's speech, whilst some would ask Huzoor his advice and guidance.

To one guest, Huzoor said "*try and foster tolerance and justice – these are the keys to peace.*"

To another guest, Huzoor said that if Islam's true teachings were followed then no one could criticise the religion and it was only when its teachings were abused that people were then able to target it.



### Rifle exhibition in Huzoor's honour

As I walked across the hall, I noticed a group of men who were all wearing very traditional Bavarian clothing. I found out that they were members of the local *Neufahrn Rifle Club* and had come to welcome Huzoor to the town with a shooting exhibition.

One of the members of the group, an elderly man with a thick moustache, said:

***“Please do not think we do this exhibition for all guests. We only do it for our most honoured guests and that is why we are doing it for your leader.”***

Thus upon the completion of the formal part of the event, Huzoor walked outside where 7 members of the *Rifle Club* were lined in formation.

We all watched from a distance as they fired their guns, first one by one and then collectively. The guns they used were traditional guns that did not use bullets but used gunpowder and so with every shot fired plumes of smoke decorated the air.



The exhibition continued for about 5 minutes and then the members came to meet Huzoor. They showed Huzoor their guns and Huzoor also raised one up into the air and having done so Huzoor commented that they were much heavier compared to modern guns.

From a personal perspective I enjoyed the brief exhibition as we were able to sample some of the traditional local culture.

### **Huzoor's guidance about hospitality**

After the exhibition, Huzoor departed from the school and returned to the Mosque. With the *Grace of Allah* the event had been a great success, however there was one issue that I felt could have been improved a lot and it turned out I was not alone in this opinion.

Quite a few of us felt that the food served to the guests was not of the standard it ought to have been. Having attended many such functions in different countries, I had always seen how the guests used to look forward to the well cooked food and various options that were arranged by the local Jamaats. However, on this occasion the food seemed very inadequate. For example there was no proper vegetarian option.

I have to admit I was surprised because Huzoor visits Germany each year and they have Mosque openings regularly and so I presumed the local Jamaat would be very well trained in this. I do not know if this was a one-off or a regular occurrence but I did feel sorry for the guests.

Of course, Huzoor cares for the guests more than any one and has the highest standards of hospitality. Thus, in his *Friday Sermon* a few days later Huzoor specifically referred to the need of Germany's Jamaat to improve its hospitality for guests.

Huzoor spoke very beautifully of how the Jamaat's tradition to treat its guests in the best manner was started and inculcated by the *Promised Messiah* (as) and so it was the duty of the Jamaat to follow this.

Huzoor said that we should prepare food that is liked by the guests and that there were many such dishes that could be prepared that were perfectly in line with Islamic food requirements.

No doubt, our Jamaat is truly fortunate to have Huzoor's guidance over all matters and so where there are weaknesses he guides us towards improvement.

### **A few moments with Huzoor**

As we returned to the Mosque after the function there remained an hour until *Maghreb* and *Isha* and so Huzoor went to his office and called me for a few moments.

Those moments were precious because Huzoor seemed very relaxed and pleased that the event had been very successful *Alhamdulillah*.

I mentioned to Huzoor how I had very much enjoyed his address that evening. Huzoor responded by saying that whilst he had prepared parts of the address there were certain parts that he had added on the spot.

For example, Huzoor said that he was not originally planning to refer to the martyrdom of *Dr Mehdi Ali Qamar Sahib* but whilst speaking it naturally entered his mind.

Huzoor also said that he had always found the German people to be good natured and sincere.

### **Updating my iPhone**

During those moments, I saw yet again how knowledgeable Huzoor is in terms of modern technology because Huzoor looked at my *iPhone* and immediately told me that I needed to do the latest *Apple* software update!

Huzoor himself then went into the phone settings and updated the software for me himself! I was quite amazed! Apart from this Huzoor also saw some of the *apps* on my phone and told me how to utilise certain features that I was not aware of.

### **Sincerity of local Waqf-e-Nau**

Later in the evening I met 3 *Khuddam* who were doing duty at the *Al-Mahdi Mosque*. They were all in their early 20s and members of the *Waqf-e-Nau* scheme. Their eyes were red and so I asked if they were ok.

One of the boys responded by telling me that they had come from Frankfurt and had been doing duty all week and had slept very little. They said that because Huzoor was going to Munich they thought they would be able to catch up with their sleep during the 2 days Huzoor was away.

However, when they were leaving the *Baitus Sabuh* Mosque the evening before a member of the *Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya National Amila* told them that they had to go to Munich to do duty. They said they did not go home or even have time to tell their families and travelled through the night to Munich.

The boy concluded by saying:

***“It does not matter that we have not slept or gone home because when Huzoor arrived in Munich he walked past us for a second and in that second any tiredness we felt was gone. If we worked like this for anyone else we would collapse in a day or two but because we are working for Khalifa-Waqt we can do duty forever.”***

### **A visit to the local takeaway**

Huzoor and Khala Saboohi (Huzoor’s respected wife) were staying overnight at the *Munich Mosque*, as were the security staff and Bashir Sahib.

The rest of us were staying in a hotel nearby. And so after *Maghreb* and *Isha* those of us staying at the hotel were dropped off. Although we had eaten a little at the reception a few hours earlier we were all feeling hungry and so Nadeem Amini suggested that we find somewhere to eat.

We looked at *Private Secretary Sahib* and he also said he was hungry and so we asked some local people if there was anything nearby but disappointingly we were told that most places would be closed.

We drove back towards our hotel and saw that there was a small *pizza takeaway restaurant* which seemed open just opposite the hotel. Majid Sahib was tired and so he went back to his room but the rest of went to the *takeaway*.

Ordering the pizza was not a simple exercise as everyone seemed to have a different request! After much debate it was agreed that we would order one extra-large pizza and it would be split into three different sections. Half of the pizza was covered in *spicy chicken*, one quarter was *tuna and pineapple* and the final quarter was *tuna and chilli*.

After about 20 minutes the pizza was ready and rather than being a round pizza it was a rectangular one and was genuinely huge. We took it back to the hotel and each of us ate a slice or two.

I took a chicken slice and although I could tell the pizza was not of the best quality the fact that it was piping hot mixed with the fact that we were hungry meant that we all enjoyed it.

Whilst we were sat in the lobby a group of elderly Germans also entered and so we offered them our pizza. They were grateful but patted their stomachs to gesture they had already eaten and were full.

### **Finding my room**

Although the hotel was fine, it had a strange and cold atmosphere. I do not really know how to explain it but as soon as I entered the hotel I felt I was walking back in time 100 years. It was very dark and everything seemed from a past age.

I was staying on a different floor to the other members of our Qafila and when I reached my floor it was pitch black and so I could not see a thing.



I could not tell which room was mine and so I was very worried that I would put my key into the wrong room. I walked along and managed to get a bit of light by using my phone as a torch.

Thankfully, after a few seconds I found my room and so I opened my door and went straight to bed. I have to admit I was glad that we would be there only one night!

### **Departure from Munich**

We left Munich at 12.35pm the next morning after Huzoor had met local Ahmadis in Mulaqaat. As Huzoor waved goodbye to the Ahmadis, I saw that Khala Saboohi also went and especially met each and every member of the local *Lajna* very lovingly and affectionately.

The local Jamaat was very sad to see Huzoor depart and they recited *nazms* with great emotion as they all collectively waved goodbye to Huzoor.

### **Scenic drive to Falkenstein**

The local Jamaat had arranged for some sightseeing on route back to Frankfurt and so we drove towards the mountainous municipality of *Falkenstein* which lies on the border of Germany and Austria.

The drive to *Falkenstein* was very beautiful as we crossed rolling hills and snow-capped mountains. We also passed a lot of churches that looked very much like Mosques as they had domes and minarets.

Apparently in that region it was quite normal for churches to be built with this seemingly Islamic influence.

One of the people in our car joked that if the local people come to accept Islam it will not cost much to convert the churches into Mosques!

Our destination was the *Burg Hotel* which was high in the mountains and so we drove up the windy mountain roads and observed the amazing views.

However, the final part of the drive tested our nerves as the bendy road was tight and had no barrier.

At one point I made the mistake of looking down at the huge drop and immediately grabbed my seatbelt and prayed!

Our driver Nadeem mentioned that he was fearful of heights and at one point he too looked down and became extremely tense! The rest of us in the car tried to divert his attention as we did not want a nervous and stressed driver at the wheel!

*Alhamdolillah* after a few minutes driving through the final steep roads we arrived at the hotel.

As soon as I got out of the car I saw that the view was spectacular. I was shocked as I had never imagined Germany to be a particularly beautiful country.

Whenever I thought of Germany I thought of industry and manufacturing but this part of Germany was like a different world.



Huzoor and Khala Saboohi were welcomed by a local lady who explained about the history of the area.

### **A priceless photo**

After a few minutes Huzoor went to a balcony on the other side of the hotel and started to take photos of the scenery. If anything the view from the other side was even more special. We were still in Germany but just a few metres across we could see Austria.

Part of me wished we could take a drive into Austria as well so that the Austria would also be blessed by the presence of *Khalifatul Masih* but it was not to be on this occasion.

Most of the *Qafila* members had stayed back and perhaps I should have too but seeing Huzoor standing with the beautiful backdrop of the *Alps* I could not help but stand as close to Huzoor as I could.

After a few seconds Huzoor looked at me and called me towards him and said he would take my photo with the *Alps* in the backdrop. I stood and as Huzoor took my photo and I felt so grateful to Allah that I was stood in such a beautiful part of the world with the *Khalifa-Waqt*.

As I thought of this it occurred that the only thing better would be if I could have my photo taken *with* Huzoor and not just *by* Huzoor. I thus plucked up the courage and said:

***“Huzoor, it will be even better if you are in the photo as well.”***

Huzoor smiled and kindly accepted my request. He handed the camera to Ahmad bhai and then stood with me and held my hand.



What I felt for those few seconds is hard to describe and I could feel my love for Huzoor increasing with each second.

After Ahmad bhai had taken the photo, Huzoor also called him for a photo and so afterwards Ahmad bhai remarked to me that he too had benefited from my request for a photo!

Those few minutes will stay with me forever. Those memories will last a lifetime.

### Lunch at the hotel

Lunch was at the hotel and Huzoor and Khala Saboohi ate on the balcony where I had just had my photo taken. The rest of went to a larger balcony a few metres away.

I was seated at a table with Ahmad bhai, Ilyas Majoka Sahib and another member of the German Jamaat. With the *Grace of Allah* the food was very delicious.

First we were served a creamy *vegetable soup* and whilst I am not normally a fan of creamy soups on this occasion I found it to taste very good. The main course was *grilled salmon with potatoes and vegetables* and again it was really wonderful.

Those who know me well know that I enjoy desserts and so as we finished our meal I waited in anticipation to see what the dessert would be. Given that the starter and main was so good my expectations were high.

I think my mouth was even watering but just as they were about to serve it Bashir Sahib came and said it is time for *Namaz*! I got up and have to admit that the first thing I thought was that my dessert has now gone!

We went to a large conservatory room just next to where Huzoor had lunch. The room directly faced the Alps and so it was a very memorable and beautiful place to offer prayers behind Huzoor.



After the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers had been offered I heard Ameer Sahib say that we should return to our balcony because they were now serving dessert. I was delighted! I went back and having waited for it the dessert tasted even sweeter. It was a traditional German pastry dessert called *Apple Strudel* served alongside vanilla ice cream.

Following dessert we got ready to leave. Earlier the local Jamaat had said they were planning to request Huzoor to do further sightseeing on a cable-car but unfortunately by the time we left we were told that due to strong winds it would not be possible.

We therefore left the hotel at 4.45pm and drove straight back to *Baitus Sabuh*. I was told the journey was long and that we would not arrive at the Mosque before 9.30pm.

### **Saving time on the Autobahn**

For years I had heard about Germany's *Autobahns* being very conducive to fast driving as parts of it do not have speed limits. On that afternoon as we sat in our car, Nadeem said he wanted to reach *Baitus Sabuh* as quickly as possible so that Huzoor's time would be saved.

Our car was directly in front of Huzoor's car and for the next few hours Nadeem drove with great concentration and speed but also safely. Whilst Nadeem is always laughing and joking, he is also a very excellent driver and so with the *Grace of Allah*, we arrived back at the Mosque more than an hour before we had anticipated.

During the drive I found myself thinking of Bashir Sahib who drove Huzoor's car. I thought of the weight of responsibility upon him and how he must have very strong nerves.

The next day I asked Bashir Sahib if he was at all nervous during the mountainous drive the day before. He responded emphatically by saying "*No!*" and he explained that it was when a person became nervous that driving became dangerous.

He said it was essential to remain calm and confident at all times and that the drive was nothing compared to some of the roads he had driven on in Spain!

As I listened to him I thought that my analysis was correct and that Bashir Sahib really did have nerves of steel when it came to driving!

### **A random question**

The next day was spent back at *Baitus Sabuh* and at one point I was walking along a corridor when a man, in his 50s, who I had never met before suddenly stopped me. He shook my hand very firmly and then asked:

***“Are you a Murrabi Sahib?”***

I replied saying “No” to which he responded with full confidence by saying:

***“Do not worry – one day you will become one!”***

Having told me that one day I will qualify as a *Missionary* he then walked off and I did not ever see him again. Whilst he spoke with the best of intentions I think my chances of qualifying from *Jamia* are long gone!

### **Stocking up on chocolate**

I had wanted to get some chocolates for home and as we were travelling to *Karlsruhe* the next day I decided to go and purchase some that afternoon.



A local Khadim told me that just a few hundred metres walk from the Mosque were two grocery shops *Aldi* and *Lidl*. I went to both supermarkets and saw that they had a wide range of chocolates which were very reasonably priced.

On tours where Huzoor is flying we have to be very careful about the weight of our luggage as airlines are very strict and so I have never bought anything that is heavy.

However, in Germany we were travelling by road and so there were no weight restrictions. I think I became a bit too excited by the prospect of not being having any weight limits because I ended up filling 2 large carrier bags with chocolates!

The value was good though because I did not spend more than 30 euros and I know that if I had bought the same chocolate in England it would have cost at least £50.

I came back to the Mosque with my two bags of chocolate feeling slightly embarrassed and hoping no one would see me.

Thankfully, I managed to get to my room without meeting anyone and then I laid all of the chocolates out on my bed and it is no exaggeration to say that almost the entire bed was covered.

I took a picture and sent it to Mala and told her I had just bought such a large stock and when she saw it she asked if I had gone mad!

### Joy of Ahmadis after meeting Huzoor

That afternoon I met some families as they emerged from Mulaqats after meeting Huzoor. The first family I met was a young married couple, *Tahir Majeed* and his wife.

Sometimes I meet people who have tears streaming down their faces after meeting Huzoor. Tahir Sahib and his wife were different – instead of tears they could not contain their broad smiles. Their happiness was infectious and so I found myself smiling upon seeing how happy and overjoyed they were.

Tahir Sahib said:

***“When I entered Huzoor’s office I felt like I had entered heaven and even now I feel like I am still in that heavenly world. Huzoor is our father and our guide and so today is the happiest day of my life.”***

As I observed the uncontrolled joy on his face, I realised that these were not just words but truly it was the best day in their lives.

His wife, who had only recently come to Germany after marriage from Pakistan, was if anything even more excited and happy. She said:

***“I had heard from my friends about the feelings when you meet Huzoor and so I was so excited to finally have the opportunity to meet him today. It was so wonderful and so emotional to meet him. I also got to meet Appa Jaan***

***(Huzoor's respected wife) and she was so sweet and so kind. She seemed like a mother and was very easy to talk to."***

I met a man called *Muzaffar Shah* who was 55 and though he was a born Ahmadi he had never had the opportunity to meet *Khalifatul Masih* until that day.

Muzaffar Sahib said:

***"Today, I am the most fortunate person on earth. We are so lucky to have Khilafat because Huzoor is our Imam who guides us on everything. I have waited 55 years for this opportunity and so today my life is complete."***

### **Majid Sahib's company**

On tours, I enjoy Majid Sahib's company a lot. He works all day writing up his notes but occasionally he looks up from his desk and tells a joke or a story. His stories are often quite emotional and moving and that afternoon he narrated a personal incident.

Majid Sahib narrated how he was a student of *Jamia Ahmadiyya* during the era of *Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (ra)* and that whenever Huzoor used to return from a tour he and his friends would line up for hours in the streets of *Rabwah* to welcome Huzoor home and to get a glimpse of him.

He said they would stand in the heat for hours until Huzoor's car would drive past and they would see Huzoor for a fraction of a second.

He said just the glimpse of Huzoor would make him and his friends elated and it would be worth the hours of standing in the heat.

Majid Sahib said he now sometimes reflected upon the fact that the same boy has since had the opportunity to travel to different parts of the world *with Khalifatul Masih*. He said that whenever he thinks of this he is astounded by the God's blessings.

As Majid Sahib finished his story I looked at Abdullah Sapra Sahib who was also in the room and I saw he had become overcome with emotion and tears were streaming from his eyes.

### **Sakawat Sahib's hidden skill**

On Thursday morning I decided that I should get my hair cut before *Jalsa Salana*. I asked some local Jamaat members if anyone could recommend somewhere I could get my hair cut at a reasonable rate. Understandably, everyone seemed distracted by their Jalsa duties and so they were not too concerned about my haircutting needs.

I asked Sakawat Bajwa Sahib if he knew anywhere and he responded by saying that he would cut it for me. He said he had experience of cutting hair and so he would come to my room later in the afternoon.

I was a bit nervous because I did not want to have a disaster haircut but I felt reassured when Munir Javed Sahib said to me a few minutes later that Sakawat Sahib is a '*haircut master!*'

A couple of hours later, Sakawat Sahib came to my room with scissors and a comb. I sat on a chair with a towel covering my shirt and then Sakawat Sahib started to cut my hair. He was very confident and even talked to me like a professional barber asking me questions about my life and giving good advice!

As soon as he finished I ran to the mirror to see the results and breathed a sigh of relief as he had done a good job and saved me 15 or 20 euros at the same time!

I sent a picture of my new haircut to Mala and she said I should request Sakawat Sahib to cut it even in London!

### **Jalsa Salana inspection**

We left *Baitus Sabuh* at 6pm on Thursday 12 June to depart for *Karlsruhe* where the *Jalsa Salana* would take place.

We drove straight to the *Messe Karlsruhe* which was a huge convention centre, in which there were a number of very large halls, and was to be the venue of the *Jalsa*.

Within a couple of minutes of arriving, Huzoor began the inspection for the *Jalsa Salana*. Huzoor visited the different exhibitions, *MTA*, *Humanity First* section and various other departments.

Upon visiting an exhibition explaining the history of the Jamaat, Huzoor looked at an LCD screen in which a photo of the *Promised Messiah* (as) had been displayed.

They had displayed a photo that was not one of the two portrait photos of the *Promised Messiah* (as) that are commonly used and so Huzoor said they should display one of the traditional photos and also instructed that it should be more prominent, as the size of the photo displayed was relatively small.

Upon visiting the *Jamia Germany* section, Huzoor called Majid Sahib and told him that an exchange programme between *Jamia UK* and *Jamia Germany* should be set up, whereby students from the UK spend a week in *Jamia Germany* and vice versa.

Whilst, visiting the *Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* section, Huzoor asked about what type of charitable projects the *Khuddam* in Germany were conducting.

They responded by saying they had done blood drives and had also raised around 30,000 euros this year from their charity walks.

Upon hearing this, Huzoor said that this was not enough and he gave the example of *UK Khuddam* who had raised around £300,000 from this year's charity walk. Huzoor said Germany should increase their targets and collections.

Huzoor then proceeded to the *langhar khana* and tasted the *aloo ghosht* and upon doing so Huzoor remarked that they should cook the meat for longer so that it was softer because otherwise it would be hard to chew for people, especially elderly people.



Huzoor also went to an area where they were preparing raw meat and he said that they should not take out large quantities of raw meat because there was a risk that the meat could go bad in the heat. Thus, only small portions should be taken out at one time so that there is no risk to the health of people.

As I listened to these instructions I was again struck by the fact that Huzoor guides the Jamaat in such detail and how he is constantly concerned for the welfare of people.

At the end of the inspection Huzoor also went and visited the *bazaar*. Huzoor visited every stall and was offered food from each of the shopkeepers.

Most of them had the Indian sweet known as '*jalaybi*' ready for Huzoor and to please each one Huzoor kept tasting.

### **Huzoor's address at Jalsa Inspection**

Huzoor then proceeded to the main hall to address the workers of *Jalsa Salana* and he instructed that they should not take their duties lightly or think that they knew everything because they had the experience of past *Jalsa Salanas*.



Huzoor said there was a risk of becoming relaxed or over-confident and so each worker should be fully diligent in fulfilling their respective duties.

Along with this Huzoor said it was of the utmost importance that all the workers remained regular in prayers because no work could be blessed without prayer.

### **An 'Ahmadi' hotel**

During the days of Jalsa, Huzoor and Khala Saboohi stayed at the Jalsa site. I was staying at a nearby hotel and so after the *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers those of us staying at the hotel went straight to our accommodation.



Upon entering the hotel we saw a very large framed photo of Huzoor displayed at the entrance and alongside it was a poster saying '*Welcome to Jalsa*' in a number of different languages.

I soon realised that the hotel was filled with Ahmadis from all over Germany and abroad. Many Ahmadis had travelled from the UK and a lot of them were also staying in the same hotel.

Thus, invariably during those days whenever we were in the hotel we saw Ahmadis on every floor and in every lift. It literally seemed as though for those 3 days it was an Ahmadi hotel!

### **Pakistan's role in the World Cup**

That evening the football *World Cup*, taking place in Brazil, had started and so before sleeping I put on the hotel TV and watched the last few minutes of the first match which was between *Brazil* and *Croatia*.

A couple of days later, England played their first match against Italy and so I also watched part of that match hoping that England might win or at least draw.

However, they lost and within a few days had been eliminated from the tournament.

One thing I learnt was that Majid Sahib also had interest in the *World Cup* and had lots of football knowledge. He would share facts that none of us knew, for example he told us that the balls being used in the *World Cup* were all manufactured in *Sialkot*. He said that in this way people in Pakistan were claiming to be major participants in the *World Cup*!

### **Friday Sermon at Jalsa Salana**

Germany Jamaat's 39<sup>th</sup> *Jalsa Salana* began on 13 June 2014 when Huzoor inaugurated the *Jalsa* by raising the *Liwa-e-Ahmadiyya* and then delivered the *Friday Sermon*.



During his Sermon, Huzoor spoke about the blessings associated with Jalsa and its objectives. Huzoor spoke of how we should never take the *Jalsa Salana* for granted and he gave the example of Ahmadis in Pakistan who had not been able to hold a Jalsa for more than 30 years.

Huzoor also spoke of how each Ahmadi should strive to maintain any good habits or spiritual changes that they developed during the days of Jalsa and make them a permanent feature of their lives.

After *Jumma*, Huzoor walked from the stage. I presumed that *Salat* would be offered to the side of the stage but Huzoor kept walking towards the exit of the hall. The walk from the stage to the exit was several hundred metres and so as we left the hall behind Huzoor I was wondering where we were going.

Upon exiting the hall, Huzoor turned to the right and then continued walking before going up a flight of stairs. It was then that I saw that in a smaller hall there were Ahmadis were seated and Huzoor walked to the front led *Namaz* from there.

The reason *Namaz* was offered in a different hall was because the position of the main Jalsa Gah meant that *Salat* could not be offered there because otherwise people in other halls would have been ahead of the *Imam*.

### **Meeting Ahmadis at Jalsa**

After *Jumma* was complete I met some of the local Ahmadis. One young man, who looked familiar, called *Mansoor Shah*, tapped me on the shoulder and asked “*Abid Sahib do you remember me?*”

He reminded me that when his family came from Pakistan on asylum they were placed in Middlesbrough and so were part of the Hartlepool Jamaat when I used to live there. Hearing this I instantly remembered who Mansoor

was, although he was a young teenager when I had last met him some 10 years ago. Mansoor had now moved to Germany.

Speaking about Huzoor, he said:

***“I only desire Huzoor’s prayers because that is the key to our lives. Whenever Huzoor says something in a Sermon I try to listen though sometimes I become lazy but I will now try even harder to follow his guidance. Huzoor is my father, he is my friend and he is my everything.”***

I then met Sadiq Ahmad, 24, a student at Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany. He said:

***“When I think of Huzoor it makes realise how fortunate we are to live in the era of true Khilafat because Huzoor is the representative of the Promised Messiah (as) and ultimately he is the representative of the Holy Prophet (saw). As a Jamaat we do not have much money or power but we have the biggest treasure and wealth on earth and that is Khilafat.”***

One man who I met was Toheeb Ajibola, 23, who was an African Ahmadi who lived in Hamburg. Originally from Nigeria, he spoke very eloquently as so many Africans do.

Speaking about Jalsa, Toheeb said:

***“The Jalsa proves that our Jamaat is one family. When we are here we laugh together, we cry together, we share everything together. Seeing this unity can only make your faith stronger.”***

I asked him if he thought it was a challenge to make the good things we learn at Jalsa a permanent feature of our lives as Huzoor had asked us to. Without any hesitation he responded that it was not difficult.

Toheeb Sahib said:

***“When we go back to our homes and meet with our work colleagues or non-Ahmadi friends we have to tell them about the Jalsa and what we learned. In that way we will influence them in a good way before they can influence us in a negative way.”***

I was quite struck by his point that if we wanted to maintain any good things we learned at Jalsa we should share our experiences with others so that the good things are reinforced and spread further afield.

### **Huzoor’s meeting with delegations on first day of Jalsa**

One of the really wonderful aspects of the *Germany Jalsa* was that there were many delegations from various Eastern European countries that had come to attend the Jalsa.

These delegations included both Ahmadi converts and non-Ahmadis and each group had the opportunity to meet with Huzoor.

Along with Majid Sahib, I had the opportunity to sit in on all of these meetings and it was truly amazing to hear about the impact Jalsa and seeing Huzoor had made on them.

### **Delegations from Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary**

The first meeting took place on Friday evening and first group to meet Huzoor was a delegation of *Croatian* and *Slovenian* guests, most of whom were non-Muslim.

The guests introduced themselves to Huzoor and thereafter they had the opportunity to ask questions. Huzoor also asked them questions about their experiences or about the conditions of their home country.

Amongst the first delegation were 4 young Croatian ladies who were seated directly in front of Huzoor's desk.

It was quite apparent that they were genuinely very excited to be in Huzoor's presence and soon they begun to ask a number of questions.

They asked about the basic beliefs of Islam and also about the perceived indifference amongst today's youth about religion.

To each of the questions Huzoor responded with very easy to understand and clear answers and you could see the ladies were very happy to hear such logical answers.

I kept thinking that I am sure they will also ask about women's rights in Islam and indeed their final question was about women's rights and about what they perceived to be a '*division*' between men and women in Islam.

Huzoor responded by saying:

***“It is not ‘division’ that you see here but rather we give our women the ‘independence’ to run their own affairs. The Second Khalifa of our Jamaat set up our ladies auxiliary organisation for the very reason that if the men ever became weak in fulfilling their duties then at least the women could carry the burden of furthering the mission of the Promised Messiah (as).”***

Huzoor explained the different ways in which Islam had granted rights to women, whether it be the right to divorce, the right to inherit and many others. Upon hearing Huzoor’s answers the young ladies smiled and nodded in agreement and even remarked that they would tell Huzoor’s answers to other people and that these were the answers that they had hoped to hear.

Huzoor also remarked that if we looked at the world the population of females was more than men, yet if we looked at the world’s political systems there were only a handful of females who were *Presidents* or *Prime Ministers*.

Huzoor said that it showed that the worldly system was not as equal as it claimed to be and again upon hearing this answer the young girls nodded and happily admitted that Huzoor was correct.

Huzoor then granted all members of the delegation the opportunity to have their photo taken with him and this was something that happened at the end of each meeting.

Sometimes the photos would take many minutes yet Huzoor would continue to stand patiently until each and every man, woman and child had the opportunity of a photo. Also, during each meeting, Huzoor called every child and gave them a chocolate bar or a pen.

On the same evening, Huzoor also met with a delegation that had come from Hungary.

One young non-Ahmadi guest described the Jalsa as *“awesome, exciting and not at all scary as I had imagined”*, whilst another guest, who was a *church pastor*, remarked that he had *“never felt anything as peaceful in life and that this is an event to touch a person’s soul”*.

#### **Huzoor’s comment about UK Jalsa**

As Huzoor left his office after the meetings there were a number of Ahmadis stood in line to wave at Huzoor. The line included some students from *Jamia UK* who had travelled to Germany for the Jalsa. Huzoor noticed one of the boys, Suboor Bhatti, and asked him how he was finding the Germany Jalsa and Suboor said it was good.

Huzoor commented:

***“The UK Jalsa is better! Because there we have marquees and open fields and the risk of rain and flooding all adds up to make a more spiritual atmosphere.”***



I thought about this remark afterwards and then I realised that in many ways the *Germany Jalsa* was a very 'easy' Jalsa experience because there was no concerns about the weather or the infrastructure and the halls were air conditioned.

Whereas, each year at the UK Jalsa we are constantly worried about the weather or about parking and so many other issues.

I think Huzoor's point was that where there is the possibility of difficulty then people naturally make more effort and pray more and because of this it creates a more spiritual atmosphere.

The other point that came to mind was that being in a large field the UK Jalsa was much closer in style to the original Jalsa of *Qadian* and *Rabwah*.

The more I thought about Huzoor's remark the more beautiful I thought it was.

### **Ahmad bhai's idea**

That evening, Ahmad bhai came up to me and said that he had asked all of his security staff and the German security teams to wear a *Humanity First* baseball cap that evening in order to publicise *Humanity First*. He asked if I would also wear it and I agreed.

Thus when Huzoor came from his residence to lead the *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers dozens of us were stood wearing our baseball caps.

### Expressions of love for Khilafat

I met many more Ahmadis during the Jalsa weekend and I remember distinctly my conversation with one young man, *Sajeel Ahmad*, who was 20.

He spoke very emotionally about his feelings for Khilafat and said:

***“Yesterday, Huzoor walked past where I was standing and I could not stop crying or control my tears. Even though I am still very young I have been wondering if I will ever have the opportunity in my life to see him again.”***

I met an Ahmadi called *Mubashar Ahmad*, 30, who had come to Germany four years previously. He said:

***“Until I met Huzoor for the first time I understood only that Huzoor was our spiritual leader but I did not understand what Khilafat truly was. But then when I had the honour of meeting him it made me feel for the first time that my life was complete.”***

Another Ahmadi, *Wahaj bin Sajid*, 31, said:

***“It is very strange but every week when I listen to Huzoor’s Friday Sermon I feel that the questions that have arisen in my mind during the past week have all been answered. The way Huzoor’s brings peace to our minds shows that Khilafat is a divine institution.”***

I met another Jamia student, *Rana Munawer*, who was in his fifth year of study. He spoke very sincerely about his own personal objectives. He said:

***“I want to prove to Huzoor that I am ready to fulfil my Waqf and to do anything that he requires of me. My only desire is to serve Islam and to make my Khalifa pleased.”***

Another Jamia student, *Abdul Wasay*, 22, also spoke of his feelings towards Khilafat. He said:

***“I heard Huzoor’s Sermon last week which was about obedience and so I swear that I will never forsake obedience because I know that obedience to Khilafat is the only way to God. I love Huzoor a million times more than I love my parents. When he smiles in our direction it is the best feeling on earth.”***

### **A mistaken mubarakbaad**

I had a rather embarrassing conversation early on Saturday morning. The afternoon before after Jumma I had worked in an office that I shared with Majid Sahib and a few other people.

In the next room MTA was playing and so I listened from a distance to the last 10 minutes of one particular Jalsa speech which I thought was very good.

The voice sounded like *Abdul Awal Sahib*, our Missionary from Bangladesh. Thus, the next morning I saw Abdul Awal Sahib before *Fajr* and I said to him that I had not heard all of his speech but what I had heard I really enjoyed.

In response, he looked at me and said:

***“My speech has not yet happened and is scheduled for this afternoon!”***

I felt instantly embarrassed and could feel myself going red! I apologised and said I must have heard someone else’s speech.

Thankfully, he was very gracious and did not seem to mind my error. I later learned that the speech I had heard was actually delivered by the *Principal of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany*.

Later that day, Abdul Awal Sahib did deliver his Jalsa address and afterwards one of our Qafila drivers, Nadeem Amini, said that he had liked his speech a lot.

Nadeem thus walked to where Abdul Awal Sahib was standing with Feroz Alam Sahib, the *in-charge of the Bangla Desk*. He hugged him and said “*I really liked your speech, Mubarak ho*”. Although Nadeem offered his congratulations with the best of intentions he had mistaken Feroz Alam Sahib for Abdul Awal Sahib! And so rather awkwardly Feroz Sahib said that it was not him who had delivered the speech and he pointed to Abdul Awal Sahib!

Feeling very embarrassed Nadeem walked to where I was standing and told me his error. I burst into laughter wondering what Abdul Awal Sahib will think of us whereby I gave him *mubarakbaad* before he had even given his speech and now Nadeem had given his *mubarakbaad* to Feroz Alam Sahib!

### **Impact of Khilafat on children**

No doubt seeing Huzoor and listening to him has a very great impact on Ahmadi children. If I look back at my own childhood I remember that whenever I saw *Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV* (ra) I used to feel so fortunate and lucky. Even at a very young age I remember having a very deep belief that Huzoor was the best and most important person in the world. As I met young Ahmadi children in Germany I could see that they shared this strong conviction.

I met 2 young cousins, *Asnen* (13) and *Alian* (12) who told me that when Huzoor came to Germany they naturally felt a desire to try and be better children.

One of them said that he used to be a bit '*naughty*' but one day he heard Huzoor say in *Waqf-e-Nau* class that children should respect their parents and not make them angry. He said ever since he had heard this he had tried to improve himself so that he did not ever upset his parents.

The other boy said that he did not know why he loved Huzoor so much but he did and he said that he particularly loved Huzoor's voice and the way Huzoor spoke.

### **Address to Lajna**

On Saturday morning, Huzoor addressed *Lajna Imaillah* directly and drew their attention to the importance of righteousness and to fulfilling their responsibilities both within their homes and to the Jamaat.

Huzoor said that the people of the world needed a positive example to follow and it was our duty as a *Jamaat* to reform ourselves and improve so that we can be that true example for all others to follow.

### **Huzoor's love for a Khadim**

After the address to *Lajna*, Huzoor led the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers and after *Namaz* as Huzoor was leaving the *Officer Jalsa Salana* introduced a young *Khadim* to Huzoor.

I could not hear what was being said but I saw that Huzoor was asking the *Khadim* various questions and then in a very loving and tender way Huzoor placed his hand on the back of the *Khadim's* head and neck.

When Huzoor left I met the *Khadim*, whose name was *Amer Ahmad Warraich*, aged 23.

He told me that two days before he had been unloading trucks as part of his *Jalsa* duty and whilst doing so he had suffered a fairly serious injury when a metal shutter came down and hit the back of his head.

He had been to hospital and had a *CT scan* to discover the extent of the injury. He said he still felt pain but the doctors were optimistic that he would make a full recovery.

Speaking about the opportunity to meet Huzoor, he said:

***“Huzoor asked me how I was and where I felt pain and then he placed his hand exactly at the point of pain. That moment was more precious to me than any other moment in my life.***

***I have been in Germany for 2 years and had always been desperate for the opportunity to meet Huzoor and so I thank Allah that I got injured because this was the way I got to meet beloved Huzoor for the first time in my life. I will be happy to be injured a hundred more times if it means I get such blessings again.”***

### **Reflections of a young Ahmadi**

Later that day I met a student from *Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany* called *Tahssin Rashid*, who was 27. He spoke about the blessings of Jalsa Salana and said:

***“When you do duty at Jalsa, no matter what duty it is, you feel like you are a better person and you feel more self-dignity and self-worth.”***

*Tahssin* then told me his own story of how when he was still a teenager his father became seriously ill and the doctors had given up hope for his recovery.

He said he wrote to Huzoor and through Huzoor’s prayers his father made a full recovery and lived for another 8 years.

He said those extra years that he had with his father were only due to the blessings of *Khalifatul Masih*. Sadly, his father and mother had now both passed away but *Tahssin* did not display any self-pity.

Rather, he said:

***“Though both of my parents have now died, I have never for one day felt like an orphan or felt alone and this is because of the blessings of Khilafat. Whenever I have been in need of anything I write to Huzoor and he responds with his love and guidance.”***

I knew exactly what he meant.

### **Huzoor’s address to non-Ahmadi guests**

On Saturday afternoon, Huzoor addressed almost 1,000 non-Ahmadi and non-Muslim guests at the Jalsa. Huzoor’s English address to non-Ahmadis has become a regular feature of the German Jalsa over the past few years.

Huzoor’s address was very beautiful as he explained Islam’s true teachings and spoke in detail about the institution of *Khilafat*.

In Germany, there had been negative propaganda against ‘*Khilafat*’ over the past year, to the extent that certain groups had stated that they would never allow *Khilafat* to enter Germany.



Such people or groups did not understand the true concept of *Khilafat* and had been wrongly influenced by the media portrayal of radicalised and extremist Islamic groups. Thus, Huzoor's address was the perfect way to reassure the German nation about the true objectives of *Khilafat*.



Huzoor said:

***“Let me make it clear that the institution of Khilafat leading the Ahmadiyya Community has no interest in power or government. Rest assured that true Khilafat has no worldly or political objectives. The sole concern of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat is that the people of the world come to recognise their Creator and bow down before the One God.”***

Huzoor explained that the *Khalifatul Masih* was guiding the Ahmadiyya Jamaat towards righteousness and that Ahmadis followed their Khalifa because of an “unbreakable spiritual bond” between *Khalifatul Masih* and an Ahmadi.

Huzoor included quotes of the *Promised Messiah* (as) in which he spoke only of serving humanity and caring for others.

Quoting the Promised Messiah (as), Huzoor said:

***“There are only two complete parts of faith. One is to love God and the other is to love mankind to such a degree that you consider the suffering and the trials and tribulations of others as your own and that you pray for them.”***

### **Impact of Huzoor’s address on guests**

After the address, I met various guests and also asked some of the local *Jamia* students or graduates to do so. It was very clear that Huzoor’s words had touched a lot of people and resonated a great deal.

I particularly remember the words of a man called *Mr Malenka*, who was half German and half Iranian. He said that when he listened to Huzoor’s speech he felt that *he* had written every word himself because Huzoor’s words reflected perfectly what he believed to be right.

I met a young German man called *Jannick*, 20, who said:

***“When I saw the Khalifa I felt a new emotion – an emotion that I have never felt before in my life. Because English is not my first language I did not understand everything but whatever I did understand touched my heart.”***

*Jannick* was very sincere and seemed genuinely emotional. Seeing Huzoor had a such a strong impact on him that the next day he accepted Ahmadiyyat at Huzoor's hand by doing *Ba'ait*. *Alhamdolillah*.

I met 3 African non-Ahmadi Muslims, two of whom were from Somalia and one who was from Sierra Leone. They all said that the way Huzoor had defended Islam and the character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) was unique and had left a deep impression upon their hearts.

A German man, called *Karl Heinz*, said:

***“The Khalifa said things that even the Pope would not have the courage to say. In the press there is so much written or spoken against Islam and Christians are treated as though they are angels. Yet here I saw with my own eyes thousands of Muslims living together in peace.”***

A local German politician said:

***“The way the Khalifa presented Islam was immaculate. If that is the true Islam then we have to concede that Islam has gone ahead of all other religions. There is no doubt in my mind that Ahmadiyyat is the true version of Islam.”***

A German student called *Kai* who was 19 said he had noticed a vast difference between the Ahmadiyya Jamaat and other Muslims he knew.

Kai said:

*“I have many Sunni friends but they do not practice the Islam that your Khalifa spoke of. They have hatred in their hearts but your leader spoke only of love for all people. When I looked at him I felt a great respect develop in my heart instantly and I could see that this was a person who only speaks the truth.”*

### **Meeting with Russian delegation**

Later that evening Huzoor again met with various delegations. The first delegation consisted of guests from *Russia* and other ex-Soviet states such as *Kyrgyzstan*.

The guests seemed very simple, humble and quite overwhelmed by being at the Jalsa and having the opportunity to meet Huzoor.

When Huzoor called the children and gave them chocolates you could see the pride and happiness on the face of their parents, particularly the mothers.

### **Meeting with Arab delegation**

The second delegation to meet Huzoor that evening was an *Arab* delegation consisting of 300 Arabs, including both Ahmadi converts and non-Ahmadis. The meeting lasted over an hour during which Huzoor answered the questions of various guests and then met personally with many of the families.

The meeting proved to be a very memorable and emotional experience and one in which the blessings of Khilafat were truly visible.



In answer to a question from a non-Ahmadi about being rightly guided, Huzoor said that Allah Himself guides sincere people who are in search of the truth and so rather than listening to the false claims of Maulvis and Mullahs those who wish to become close to Allah should seek His guidance through prayer.

One non-Ahmadi Arab lady took the microphone and started speaking in English. As she spoke she started to cry describing how her young son had become very ill.

She said that as an infant he had been perfectly healthy but following a vaccination he had completely stopped developing and no longer spoke and did not even recognise his parents any more. The unbelievable pain of the lady was clear. She wept as she described how she had waited all day to meet Huzoor so she could seek his prayers and blessings for her child.

Very lovingly and with great compassion Huzoor prayed that Allah grant the child a full recovery and he called the child and then handed him some chocolate from his blessed hand.

As I watched this from the side I felt myself becoming very emotional thinking of the pain the mother must have felt at the deterioration of her son and also thinking how truly universal Huzoor's love and compassion for mankind really was.

After that lady suddenly more Arab ladies came forward with their children requesting Huzoor's prayers for their children and seeking his blessings. Huzoor gave time to every person until their hearts were satisfied.

There was another lady who came to the stage weeping and started to tell Huzoor about her personal problems. As he listened to her, Huzoor put his hand over the microphone so that others would not hear her issues and so her privacy would be maintained.

There was a young Arab man from Italy who had recently accepted Ahmadiyyat. As he spoke to Huzoor he became overwhelmed and tears flowed from his eyes.

He told Huzoor he had accepted Ahmadiyyat one month earlier and ever since he had been persecuted and opposed by his family and friends. He said that he used to lead the prayers but now his family refused to pray behind him and mercilessly mocked and taunted him saying: ***"Who will you now lead in prayer?"***

Very beautifully Huzoor responded saying:

***“Do not worry! Say to them that I will lead - but now I will now lead the prayers of the Momineen.”***

Hearing these words the Arab again burst into tears and just managed to say ***“Insha’Allah”***.

Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to sit in as an observer on many meetings that Huzoor has held both with Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis.

However, the meeting with the Arabs that day was one that I would never forget. The room seemed charged by so much mutual love between the Khalifa and the Arabs.

As I looked at the faces of the Arabs who had come to accept Ahmadiyyat it struck me that they had come to accept the Promised Messiah (as) with every pore of their being and with every fibre of the heart.

### **Impressions of an Ahmadi**

The next day, I met an Ahmadi called *Tahir Ahmad Ghalib* who for many years had lived in New Jersey in the United States but had moved to Germany a year earlier for work.

When I spoke to him about the Jalsa and Huzoor’s presence he instantly became overcome with emotion.

Tahir Sahib said:

***“Huzoor is the greatest inspiration to all of us. When he is here people happily do duties for hours upon hours, days upon days and seeing that makes your faith stronger.***

***I sometimes feel that we take Khilafat for granted and I particularly realise this when I see just how much impact Huzoor has upon non-Ahmadis and non-Muslims when they meet him.”***

### **Walks with my friend**

Over the past year I had got to know *Syed Salman Shah*, 26, well. He studied at *Jamia UK* for 7 years before qualifying as a *Missionary* earlier in the year. Huzoor had now posted him back to Germany where he had grown up.

During the tour we would often walk together in the evenings and invariably our conversations would be about Huzoor and the way he cared for and loved every single Ahmadi.

*Salman* was very fortunate that he was given the opportunity to deliver the *Azan* at the *Friday Sermon* on the first day of *Jalsa*.

*Alhamdolillah* he recited the *Azan* very beautifully on that day. The next day he told me about this experience.



Salman said:

***“The tune of my Azan was actually taught to me by Huzoor himself when I was in London and so I consider myself so fortunate to have been able to give the Azan at the Germany Jalsa – the country where I was born – in the presence of Khalifatul Masih and in the tune that he himself taught me.”***

Salman, also spoke of Huzoor’s visit by saying:

***“The moment Huzoor arrived in Germany I became filled with supreme happiness and joy. However from that moment I was also filled with grief because I realised that the clock had started ticking and that after a few days Huzoor would depart and return to London.”***

### **Huzoor’s humility**

On Saturday evening following the *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers Huzoor walked back towards his residence and I followed Huzoor up the stairs that led to the residence.

Upon seeing me Huzoor asked how my day had been and so I told him about how I had met many Ahmadis and non-Ahmadis.

I said the Ahmadis had expressed their heartfelt emotions and love for *Khilafat*, whilst the non-Ahmadis had spoken of their great appreciation of Huzoor’s address earlier in the day.

I mentioned how one non-Muslim guest had said that he had attended the *Jalsa* for 3 years and had loved Huzoor's speech that day more than any other. Displaying his unique humility, Huzoor responded by saying:

***"I thought my speech today was very simple but perhaps the guest liked it because the main topic was Khilafat."***

### **Blessings of Khilafat – a personal incident**

A few months before the Germany tour I had put an offer on a house which I had planned to purchase and I had paid a substantial deposit but for various reasons the purchase eventually fell through.

Initially I was assured that I would be paid back my deposit but as the days turned into weeks I started to receive mixed messages and the payment was not returned. Finally during the days of *Jalsa* I received an email that suggested that I would not be paid back the deposit at all.

I became worried and thought that it seems that this money has been wasted and will not be returned. At that point I wrote a short letter to Huzoor requesting his prayers.

The next day the *Private Secretary Sahib* handed me the letter which Huzoor had read and signed. I felt relieved and grateful that Huzoor had read my letter even amongst the extremely busy days of *Jalsa*.

Literally, moments after reading the letter I happened to check my personal bank account on my phone. I did so without any purpose but as a matter of routine and when I checked it I was astounded because the full amount of the deposit had been returned to my account.

I had not received any message since the email the day before in which it appeared I would not be paid back the money. It truly seemed like a miracle and purely the result of Huzoor's prayers.

### **Bai'at ceremony at Jalsa Germany**

The concluding session of *Jalsa Salana Germany* took place on the afternoon of Sunday 15 June. Before the session Huzoor led *Namaz* and then a *Ba'a'it* ceremony took place at Huzoor's hand.



I do not know how the sound quality was for those who were watching on *MTA*, but for those of us in the hall the sound quality during the *Bai'at* ceremony was very poor.

Whilst the sound of the German translation was extremely loud and clear, it was hardly possible to hear Huzoor at all.

I was seated just a couple of feet behind Huzoor and for much of the *Bai'at* I could not hear Huzoor's words. It was very disappointing and strange.

It was not in keeping with the honour of *Khalifatul Masih* or the honour of the *Bai'at* ceremony itself for Huzoor not to be heard.

Huzoor of course noticed the poor sound quality and so as soon as it was complete he said that he would repeat the *Bai'at* once again.

Thereafter, with the sound quality now improved, Huzoor led the *Bai'at* ceremony, without pausing for translation, in the Urdu language.

Very rarely, is the *Bai'at* ceremony offered only in *Urdu*, as it is normally translated into other languages.

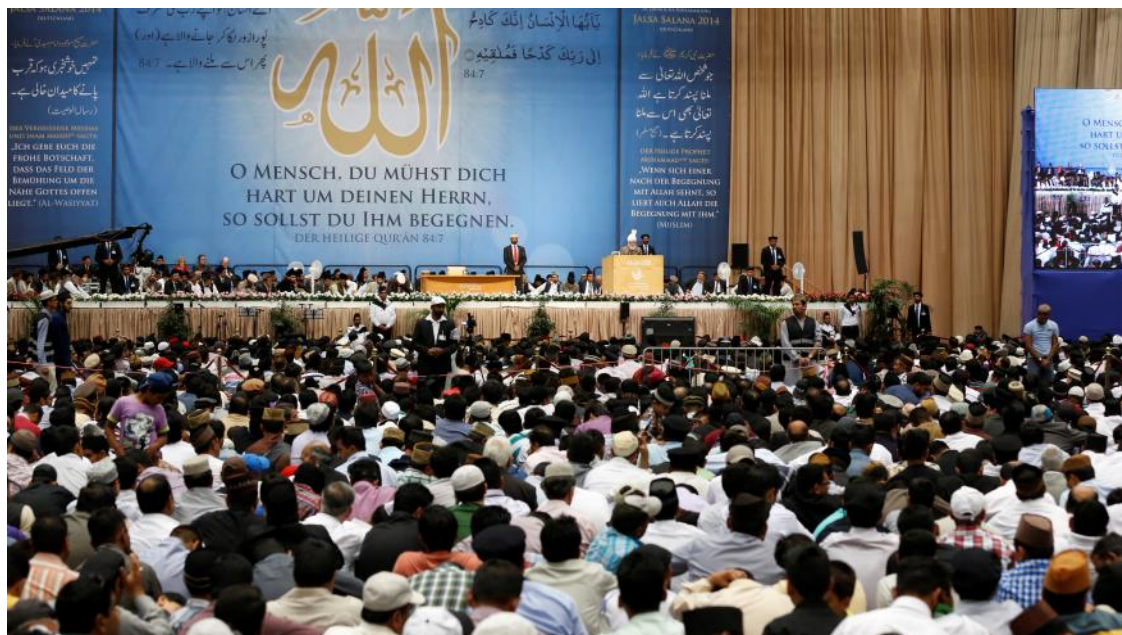
And so to do the *Bai'at* without pausing in Urdu was something that I personally very much enjoyed.

### **Concluding Session of Jalsa Germany**

Huzoor's concluding address was very powerful as he drew the attention of all Ahmadis towards the worship of Allah and quoted extensively from the writings of the *Promised Messiah* (as) about how to develop a relationship with Allah.

Huzoor concluded the Jalsa by praying:

***“I pray that we may be those who come to bear true understanding of their faith; who become close to God and gain His love. May we be truly the inheritors of the vast treasures that the Promised Messiah has left for us.”***



*Alhamdulillah* the *Jalsa Salana* had come to a successful conclusion following a very faith inspiring address by Huzoor. With the *Grace of Allah*, more than 33,000 people from 32 countries had attended and I felt very grateful to have been one of them.

Unfortunately, during that final session there were again some audio problems whereby at one point the electricity got cut meaning that Huzoor's microphone stopped working.

During those few minutes, Huzoor stood at the lectern displaying great patience as we waited for the technical fault to be resolved.

Sensing their opportunity, a number of Ahmadis stood up and raised very powerful and moving *naaray* and the thousands of Ahmadis in the hall responded with great emotion.

After the completion of the *Jalsa*, I thought back to Huzoor's comments on the day of the inspection. Whilst addressing the workers, Huzoor particularly reminded them to never become complacent or to think that they were very well-versed in their duties.

As we all witnessed the problems with sound quality, I felt that perhaps Huzoor's words had not been heeded to the extent they should have been. I personally felt the need to do *Istighfar* because any of us can become complacent and make mistakes and it is only Allah who can protect us from our own weaknesses.

### **Post-Jalsa sweets**

Following the completion of *Jalsa Salana*, Huzoor went back to his residence for a few moments. The rest of us *Qafila* members, stood in the area outside Huzoor's residence and ate sweet and fresh *jalaybi* that we had been kindly offered.

After a few minutes I saw that a large fresh cream cake had also been served and even though I had eaten a full *jalaybi* I could not resist the cake. I cut myself a small piece which I enjoyed thoroughly.

A local Ahmadi said that the piece of cake I had cut was very small and I should have taken more. I was grateful to Khalid Sahib, *in-charge Russian Desk*, who interjected and told him it was better to remain fit than to overeat.

### **Huzoor's meetings with new-Ahmadis**

Later that evening, before returning to Frankfurt, Huzoor held meetings with new Ahmadis. The first meeting was with ladies and the second meeting was with men.

Before Huzoor arrived in the men's hall I met some of the converts. Listening to them explain how content they felt since accepting Ahmadiyyat made me feel even more lucky for having been born an Ahmadi.

One of the converts was *Muhammad Imran Khan*, had come to Germany from Pakistan. He was aged 26 and was doing a *Masters* in Engineering.

Muhammad Imran Khan said:

***"When I came to Germany to study I saw that all of the things that I had been told about Ahmadis as I grew up in Pakistan were lies. I began to listen to Huzoor's Friday Sermons on MTA and I felt that whatever questions I had in my heart the Khalifa-Waqt was answering them himself.***

***The Jamaat's beliefs were so logical and reasoned that I could not help but be attracted and soon I realised that the claim of the Promised Messiah (as) was true."***

Another man, *Zulfi Jonavoski*, from Macedonia told me he had done *Bai'at* in October 2013. He continued:

***“Whenever I see Huzoor anywhere I feel as though I have seen an angel and so today I feel so fortunate to have the honour to meet him. When I reflect upon the peace that Ahmadiyyat has given me I feel it is the same peace that the followers of the Holy Prophet (saw) will have felt.”***

I also met *Jannick Helmen*, aged 20, who had done *Ba'a'it* earlier that day. I could see that he was nervous at the prospect of meeting Huzoor for the first time. He told me that because of nerves he did not think he would be able to ask Huzoor a question and so just wanted to sit in Huzoor's presence.

He also told me that during the *Ba'a'it* ceremony he had the honour of placing his hand directly on Huzoor's hand. He said:

***“To touch the hand of the Khalifa today was extremely emotional and indescribable and so today I feel like I have started a new life.”***

After completing his meeting with the Lajna members, Huzoor came straight to meet the new Ahmadi male converts. Huzoor spoke with them very affectionately and asked them how they had come to accept *Ahmadiyyat* and their experiences of *Jalsa Salana*.

Throughout the meeting, Huzoor answered questions and gave advice to the new Ahmadis.



One French convert, *Sebastien*, said that he was raised as a Christian but was never satisfied by its teachings. He said that at his *Church* he was made to pray towards a statue depicting *Jesus* and this made him angry as he wished to worship God alone. Thereafter, he came to know of *Ahmadiyyat* and felt immediately drawn towards it.

*Sebastien*, then asked Huzoor if he would give him an Islamic name. Huzoor asked what the name '*Sebastien*' meant and he said that he did not know. After a few seconds, Huzoor said that he should take the name of '*Ata-ul-Hai*'.

Another convert asked Huzoor if there were '*religious*' clothes or attire that he should adopt. Huzoor responded very beautifully by saying:

***“There are no clothes of religion. The true attire of religion is Taqwa and so to be a good person is the real clothing of a believer. In terms of physical attire the only rule is that a person’s clothing should be modest and decent.”***

A Spanish convert mentioned that he had non-Ahmadi family members in Pakistan who he wished to visit.

He asked how he should meet them to which Huzoor responded:

***“You should display the very highest moral standards and courtesies to your family and treat them with kindness. However, do not offer Salat behind those who reject the Promised Messiah (as).”***

One new convert was an 18 year old African boy, originally from Senegal, but who had grown up in Holland. He looked even younger than his age but spoke very confidently about how he was the only person in his family who had accepted Ahmadiyyat. He said he wanted to study in *Jamia*.

Huzoor asked if he had Dutch nationality to which he responded he would attain it after one year. Hearing this, Huzoor said very affectionately:

***“Ok, well I think once you get nationality then you should come and study at the UK Jamia so you can be close to me.”***

Upon hearing Huzoor’s words the face of the boy lit up with joy and his smile stretched from one side of his face to the other.

### **Return to Frankfurt**

Following the meeting, Huzoor and his *Qafila* left *Karlsruhe* immediately and returned to *Baitus Sabuh* in Frankfurt.

By the time we had offered *Maghreb* and *Isha* prayers it was very late and we were all hungry. We went to the dining room and were told that they had ordered pizza and so we should wait for it. After a few minutes we saw a *Khadim* carrying a number of boxes filled with hot pizzas enter the room.

There were many different types. I took 2 pieces, one was chicken and one was vegetable and with the *Grace of Allah* enjoyed every last bite!

### **Final day meetings with delegations**

The following day, *16 June 2014*, was to be the final full day of Huzoor's tour of Germany. Throughout the day, Huzoor met with more delegations from various countries including both Ahmadi converts and non-Ahmadi guests.

During some of the meetings the conversations took place directly in the English language, but where the guests did not speak English, a local Ahmadi would translate.

I was able to sit-in and make notes of each of the meetings and just by sitting there all day I found that by the end of the day I was physically tired.

I thought to myself how I had become tired in just one day, whilst only observing, and yet beloved Huzoor spends each and every day meeting people, listening to them and answering their questions and providing counsel to them.

I thought of how this alone is a great sign proving that *Khilafat* was a divine institution supported by Allah.

One of the guests who met Huzoor that day actually asked Huzoor how he was able to manage his schedule to which Huzoor replied:

***"If a person tries to imagine how I manage to fulfil all of the tasks then it is very difficult to understand. However, with Allah's Help all of my work gets done."***

### **Macedonian poem**

The first delegation was a large group from *Macedonia*. The guests asked Huzoor questions and sought his prayers.

I recalled that last year when Huzoor came back from Germany he mentioned how some members of the Macedonian delegation had very beautifully recited a *Nazm* in their own language.

I wondered if the same would happen again and so I was very happy when a Macedonian Ahmadi convert sought Huzoor's permission to recite a *Nazm* with his family.

The Macedonian family stood at the microphone, husband, wife and their two very young children and sang in a very melodious and moving tone. The poem was about *Allah*, the *Holy Prophet (saw)* and the *Promised Messiah (as)*.

As the poem drew to a close Huzoor asked the Macedonian Ahmadi if he had given him enough time to sing and if he was satisfied. The Macedonian Ahmadi replied by saying "*No I wanted even more time to sing!*" Hearing this Huzoor laughed and smiled.

### **Non-Muslims reciting revelation of Promised Messiah (as)**

The next group was from *Lithuania*, *Latvia* and *Estonia*. The group included 3 university students, 2 women and 1 man, who were very keen to share their experiences of Jalsa.

They said they had been somewhat nervous and apprehensive at the prospect of attending such a large Islamic gathering but their fears had dissipated as soon as they arrived and saw the welcoming atmosphere.

The 3 students said that they had prepared a poem which they wished to recite. I imagined it would be in their native language but instead they had learned the Arabic words of the revelation given to the Promised Messiah (as) ***“Inni maa kaa yaa Masroor”*** and a few other words which they then recited in a very pleasant and melodic way.

I took out my *iPhone* and recorded a few seconds as there was no other camera in the room. At the conclusion, Huzoor appreciated their efforts and said that they had sung very well.

### **Romanian Delegation**

Next was a delegation of 3 people who had come from *Romania*, including 2 Christians and a Muslim originally from Syria.

As the meeting went on it became quite clear that the Syrian Muslim, *Hafiz al-Hussain*, was very emotional at meeting Huzoor. He spoke about the desperate plight of the majority of Arab Muslims and said that he believed the reason for the continued conflict in Syria was a lack of *Khilafat*.

He looked at Huzoor and said *“There is no one like you in to guide Syria”* to which Huzoor responded that in reality the *Khilafat of the Promised Messiah* (as) was for everyone if they only understood this.

Huzoor invited the guest to the *UK Jalsa* to which he was extremely grateful.

Later in the day, I met the Syrian man and he remained very emotional. He said:

***“Our Arab leaders are full of pride but your Khalifa is so humble and totally different. He is like a big brother for the entire world and I am so lucky to have just met him and I want to meet him again and again. May Allah bless him with a long life as he is our guide.”***

#### **Albanian delegation**

Huzoor also met with a delegation from *Albania* during which one Ahmadi convert spoke of how desperate he was for Huzoor to visit Albania.

He said that the day *Khalifatul Masih* visits will be a blessed day not just for the *Jamaat* but for the entire nation.

Another convert said that his family could not attend the *Jalsa* and so they had asked him to convey ***“a million salaams to Huzoor.”***

Huzoor smiled and affectionately responded:

***“Jazak’Allah, and give them more than a million salaams from me.”***

## Final Delegations

In the afternoon, the series of meetings continued as Huzoor met delegations from *Bulgaria, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro* and *Kosovo*.



As an observer when I looked at the faces of people from these Eastern European and Baltic countries it seemed as though many of them had lived very tough lives. This was confirmed when some guests mentioned how they had lived through the wars of the early 1990s in the former Yugoslavia. Perhaps having seen those very desperate times they valued even more the compassion and love of Huzoor.

There was one young lady from Bosnia who had newly accepted Ahmadiyyat. She raised her hand and said that until recently she had a number of questions but then when she listened to Huzoor's *Friday Sermon* about *obedience to Khilafat* on 6 June in Frankfurt she felt as though all her questions had been answered.

The next day, Huzoor mentioned to me how his sermon had been for the old Ahmadis and office bearers and yet, with the *Grace of Allah*, this new Ahmadi had listened to it so carefully and seriously.

I was particularly struck by an elderly Bosnian man who when he had the opportunity to have his photo taken with Huzoor went and rested his head on Huzoor's shoulder in the same way a young infant would place his head on his mother or father's shoulder for comfort.

Seeing the love of this very old Bosnian man for the *Khalifa-Waqt* will stay with me for a long time.

From amongst the Kosovo delegation, one new Ahmadi said to Huzoor:

***“Even 2 days ago I was not quite ready to accept Ahmadiyyat but then yesterday something happened inside of me and instantly I knew I must do Bai’ait. Now I have accepted I feel a great weight of responsibility to fulfil the conditions of Bai’at.”***

Huzoor replied by saying:

***“Yes once a person has done Bai’at there is a great responsibility and this is something that every Ahmadi should understand.”***

As the final meeting concluded, I thought about how I had never realised how important Huzoor's tours to Germany were. In many ways Germany was proving to be a gateway for *Tabligh* in Eastern Europe.



People in many countries, where it was not currently possible or practical for Huzoor to visit at this time, were able to come to Germany and to benefit directly from the blessings associated with Khilafat.



I had learned a great deal and in fact at one point during the day, Huzoor looked at me and said:

***“Abid this will have been a new experience for you as well.”***

Huzoor was, as always, absolutely correct.

### **Farewell barbecue**

One tradition of the German Jamaat, which I did not previously know about, is that whenever Huzoor visits they do a barbecue in Huzoor’s honour known on the final evening of the tour known as a ‘*Farewell Barbecue*’.

Thus on that evening at around 9pm the *Jamaat* hosted a barbecue on a small rooftop terrace on the top of *Baitus Sabuh*.



The barbecue consisted of *Kebabs*, *Tikkay*, *fish* and also *palak paneer*. The food tasted very good although I did not eat too much as we were travelling back to London the following day and so I did not want to risk a bad stomach through overeating.

### **Ameer Sahib's reflections on Khilafat-e-Khamsa**

Although I had spoken to *Abdullah Wagishauser Sahib* (*Ameer Germany*) intermittently throughout the trip, I had wanted to sit down with him and ask him about his experiences given that he had been *Ameer* for around 3 decades.

And so after *Namaz* on that final evening I asked if he could spare a few minutes, which he kindly agreed to. I asked Ameer Sahib about some of the blessings he had witnessed during the era of the *Fifth Khilafat*.

He responded by saying that in truth the blessings were countless but there were three areas where he had particularly seen the *Jamaat* progress under Huzoor's guidance and encouragement.

He mentioned first of all *Wasiyyat* and said that under Huzoor's directive the German *Jamaat* had taken great strides in increasing the numbers of *Moosis* in Germany.

Secondly, he mentioned how Huzoor had motivated the *Jamaat* towards building *Mosques* so that now each year a number of *Mosques* were either inaugurated or had their foundation stones laid.

Thirdly, Ameer Sahib also mentioned how the *Jamaat* had improved its public relations and increased its contact with non-Ahmadis vastly during the current *Khilafat*. He said that *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* was now known across all parts of Germany.

Ameer Sahib said that all of this progress was due entirely to the fact to Huzoor's direction and encouragement.

Ameer Sahib said:

***"Sometimes we think that something is impossible but Huzoor tells us to do it and he fills us with confidence which enables us to fulfil his wishes."***

As our meeting concluded, Ameer Sahib showed me his office chair and said:

***“This chair is a very old chair but it is a very blessed chair because it has been used by 3 Khalifas and that is why I keep it as my office chair.”***

### **Ahmad bhai’s invitation**

As I left Ameer Sahib’s office I went back to my room to pack my suitcase and to iron my clothes for the following day.

Whilst, I was ironing Ahmad bhai knocked on my door and asked me to come downstairs. He did not say anything else and so I wondered what he had planned. I thought that perhaps he was going into *Frankfurt* to see the city or perhaps he planned to order some food and so I grabbed my wallet just in case.

As I came down, Ahmad bhai told me to follow him and as he walked I saw that he was not going towards a car but instead was going inside the *Baitus Sabuh* Mosque.

It turned out that on the final night of any tour Ahmad bhai calls all of the Khuddam who have done security duty during the tour and thanks them for their hard work.

I am not quite sure why he called me but I sat beside him and a few others in front of around 30 Khuddam.

Initially, Ahmad bhai gave a long introduction about me and my family background and as he did so I began to panic wondering if I had to give a speech!

Thankfully, after introducing me he went on to speak to the Khuddam himself. He did ask me to say a few words before we left and I was not really sure what to say.

I spoke for 2 or 3 minutes but I cannot remember what I said except for reminding them that to serve Huzoor and *Khilafat* in any way was a great honour and privilege and so they should always appreciate and value their opportunity to serve.

### **Departure from Frankfurt**

The next morning, *17 June 2014*, Huzoor departed from Frankfurt to return to London. Huzoor led a silent prayer prior to departure and I could hear many people crying and overcome with grief that Huzoor was now leaving.

As the *dua* ended I saw *Ameer Sahib* grief-stricken and struggling to hold back his tears.

Truly, love for Khilafat is universal and so this outpouring of love from Ahmadis of all ages echoed scenes that I had witnessed in many different parts of the world.

### Lunch at service station

From, Frankfurt we drove for over 3 hours until we reached a service station called *Pauzo* where the Jamaat had organised for lunch and *namaz*. I was seated on a table with Munir Javed Sahib, Majid Sahib and Abdullah Sapra Sahib.

Once again the German Jamaat had pre-ordered the food and so after a few moments a very delicious dish of *grilled fish with mashed potatoes* was placed in front of us. Even though it was just a service station the food tasted as though it was from a very good quality restaurant.

*Namaz* had been arranged on a patio just next to where we had eaten our meal.

As I went outside I saw Khala Saboohi (*Huzoor's respected wife*) and took the opportunity to meet her. Khala Saboohi is very loving and caring and during tours the first thing she always asks me is how Mala and Mahid are and if everything is fine back home.

After a few moments Huzoor came and led the *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers and thereafter Ameer Sahib and the other members of the German Jamaat who had come to escort Huzoor back to Calais all came and met Huzoor one by one.

Although they would be driving with us to *Calais*, the Qafila cars would go straight through to the departure area and so this was their final opportunity to meet Huzoor.

### **Arrival at Calais**

We continued our journey and arrived at Calais at 4.20pm. Our scheduled *Eurotunnel* train was not until 6.50pm and so I presumed that we would try and get on an earlier train, however Huzoor's instruction was to wait for the 6.50pm train.

In hindsight I am so grateful that Huzoor made this decision because the next hours in Calais were extremely memorable and filled with joy for all of the *Qafila* members.

As there was a lot of time, the *Qafila* cars headed to the service station at Calais. Huzoor's car was the first to pass through immigration and so Huzoor arrived at the service station a few minutes before the rest of us.

### **A unique shopping experience**

When our car reached there I went inside the services and saw that Huzoor and Khala Saboohi were visiting the *duty free shop* inside the service station.

Over the next 10 or 15 minutes I saw Huzoor walk around the shop browsing in the same way as other shoppers. I felt really happy that Huzoor and Khala Saboohi had these minutes to relax and enjoy their surroundings without formality.

The rest of us also took the opportunity to have a look around the duty free shop and on a couple of occasions Huzoor walked past me.

It felt very surreal but also I felt very fortunate to witness this very rare personal time afforded to Huzoor.

Huzoor and Khala Saboohi did purchase a few things and rather than ask the *Qafila* members to queue on their behalf, both Huzoor and Khala Saboohi queued patiently until it was their turn and then Huzoor himself paid the checkout assistant. It was a very memorable, personal and beautiful scene.

### **A few moments with Huzoor**

As we left the duty free shop, Huzoor went outside to the car park again. Huzoor called me and held my arm and started walking back and forth along the pavement.

As we walked I mentioned that during this Jalsa I felt as though I had learnt the true value of Jalsa having seen the great impact it had on so many non-Ahmadis and new Ahmadi converts.

Huzoor responded by saying:

***“Yes, older Ahmadis can learn the true value of the Jalsa when they see the example and attitude of new Ahmadis.”***

After a few minutes Huzoor went back inside the service station and gestured to me to sit where he and Khala Saboohi were seated. I again took the opportunity to give my own reflections of *Jalsa Salana* and the tour as a whole.



I mentioned how I had really enjoyed the poem recited by the 3 students from Eastern Europe the day before. Huzoor smiled and then explained to Khala Saboohi about the incident and how the students had recited the revelation “*Inni maa kaa yaa Masroor*”.

Those moments in Huzoor’s company, sitting on a bench in the service station, were moments I would forever cherish.

### **A visit to Starbucks**

Ahmad bhai then approached Huzoor and mentioned that as there was still some time, if Huzoor and Khala Saboohi wished they could go and sit in *Starbucks* coffee shop.

Again it was very wonderful to see Huzoor and Khala Saboohi having the opportunity to sit and relax for a few minutes and to drink a hot *cappuccino* and to eat a slice of *cheesecake* in the same way that other people can do any time they want.

Huzoor and Khala Saboohi have given themselves entirely to the Jamaat so rarely do they have the opportunity for such moments.

I was standing nearby and Huzoor called me and said to tell all the *Qafila* members to get coffees from him. I was delighted because I really like *Starbucks* coffee and often get it in London and so to here have my favourite coffee after a couple of weeks as a gift from Huzoor was extra special.

I went and passed on Huzoor's message to the other *Qafila* members and they too were very delighted to get coffees.

Majid Sahib rarely drinks coffee because he says it can aggravate his blood pressure but as soon as he heard that Huzoor had said everyone should get coffee he too very happily ordered a cup, knowing that any gift from Huzoor can only bring blessings.

### **Khala Saboohi's Tabligh in Germany**

I was seated drinking coffee with Nadeem Amini and Nasir Amini when Huzoor and Khala Saboohi called me to where they were seated.

During those moments Khala Saboohi shared some of her own experiences of the tour. She mentioned how some Christian ladies, including a Professor, had visited her in Germany and had asked her a range of questions about Islam.

Khala Saboohi said they had asked about *Marriage in Islam*, *Purdah* and various other topics and she also narrated the answers that she gave. The answers she had given were very beautiful and easy to understand and the type which would surely have satisfied and pleased the questioners.

Khala Saboohi also mentioned how she had a great passion for *Tabligh* and tried not to waste any opportunity to spread Islam's teachings.

It was a really wonderful experience to hear how Khala Saboohi was also spreading Islam's teachings in the most excellent fashion, *Alhamdulillah*.

### Arrival in London

Our train departed at exactly 6.50pm and some 30 minutes later we had arrived back into London.

After a couple of miles we saw a series of familiar cars on the motorway which were filled with members of the *UK Jamaat* who had come to escort Huzoor back to the *Fazl Mosque*.

We drove straight back and arrived at the Mosque at 7.45pm where Huzoor was greeted by hundreds of Ahmadis who were extremely delighted to welcome back their Imam.

I immediately took my suitcase from Nadeem's car and walked the few hundred metres to my home. Just as I was entering I saw Mala and Mahid waiting at the door.

Mahid looked at me and for a second he looked completely stunned wondering where his father had suddenly appeared from.

After a couple of seconds his look of shock turned into a very big and happy smile. I was relieved that he had remembered me!

## Conclusion

*Alhamdulillah*, Huzoor's tour of Germany was blessed from start to finish. Each and every moment of the tour was filled with mutual love between the *Khalifatul Masih* and the members of his Jamaat.

In *Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, Munich, Karlsruhe* and a number of other places we witnessed yet again how Allah's Help and Support is always with his Khalifa and we saw yet again how a moment with *Khalifatul Masih* can change the lives of people forever.

May Allah grant Huzoor a long, healthy life filled with joy and contentment.  
*Ameen.*